Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) An automatic stop/start controller for a vehicle which automatically stops and starts a vehicle engine without operation of an ignition key, wherein~~,~~: a control unit ~~prevents the automatic stop of said engine if a direction indicator of said vehicle is activated, said~~automatically stops the engine without operation of the ignition key when a condition of vehicle speed is less than or equal to a predetermined vehicle speed, when a condition of distance of travel of the vehicle is more than or equal to a predetermined automatic stop prohibit distance before stop, and when a condition in which a direction indicator of the vehicle is deactivated, are at least satisfied; the control unit automatically ~~restarts said~~starts the engine immediately without operation of the ignition key if ~~said~~the direction indicator is activated after ~~said~~the engine is automatically stopped~~, and said~~ without operation of the ignition key; and the control unit prevents ~~an~~another automatic stop of ~~said~~the engine until a distance traveled by ~~said~~the vehicle after ~~said~~the engine is automatically started due to activation of the direction indicator is greater than or equal to a predetermined automatic stop prohibit distance after automatic start that is preset with a distance longer than the automatic stop prohibit distance before stop.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The automatic stop/start controller as defined in Claim ~~1~~2, wherein a motor generator assists ~~said~~the engine in generating power at least while

~~said~~the vehicle is running.

4-6. (Cancelled)

7. (New) An automatic stop/start controller for a vehicle which automatically stops and starts a vehicle engine without operation of an ignition key, wherein: a control unit automatically stops the engine in a normal automatic stop condition without operation of the ignition key when vehicle speed is less than or equal to a predetermined vehicle speed, when distance of travel of the vehicle is more than or equal to a predetermined automatic stop prohibit distance before stop, and when a direction indicator of the vehicle is deactivated, are all at least satisfied; the control unit automatically starts the engine immediately without operation of the ignition key if the direction indicator is activated after the engine is automatically stopped without operation of the ignition key; and after the automatic start of the engine due to activation of the direction indicator, the control unit provides a different stop condition for stopping the engine than the normal automatic stop condition.

8. (New) The automatic stop/start controller as defined in Claim 7, wherein a motor generator assists the engine in generating power at least while the vehicle is running.

9. (New) A method for controlling an automatic stop and an automatic start of an internal combustion engine of a vehicle having an electric motor-generator drivingly coupled to the engine, a control unit that selectively and automatically stops and starts the engine without use of an ignition key, and a direction indicator for selectively indicating a turning direction of the vehicle, comprising the steps of:

automatically stopping the engine without operation of the ignition key when at least:

a sensed vehicle speed is less than or equal to a predetermined vehicle speed;

a sensed distance of travel of the vehicle is more than or equal to a predetermined automatic prohibit distance before stop; and

a direction indicator of the vehicle is deactivated;

automatically starting the engine without operation of the ignition key when the direction indicator is activated after the engine is automatically stopped without operation of the ignition key; and

after the engine is automatically started by activation of the direction indicator, preventing automatic stopping of the engine until the vehicle travels a predetermined prohibit distance that is greater than the predetermined automatic prohibit distance before stop.